portion can be modified or repealed only by the Legislative Council, while the other may be amended or repealed by a Rule Committee consisting of some of the Judges of the High Court and the leading practitioners. It is considered better and more desirable that such modifications as may be found necessary in the Orders and Rules should be done by a committee of experts who have experience in Courts and who are quite competent to judge of them. With this object, the provision for a Rule Committee has been introduced in the Bill. The new Bill, which has been drafted on the above lines, will be introduced into the Council very soon. With these words, I beg permission to introduce the Bill."

Seconded by Mr. Krishna Aiyangar.

Carried.

THE LOCAL BOARDS BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar also moved for permission to introduce the Local Boards Bill and spoke as follows:—

"The need for the constitution of Local Boards has been brought to the notice of Government by the Members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly at its successive sessions. The object of the Bill is that, so far as the needs of a locality in respect of primary education, communication, etc., are concerned, they should be attended to by the Boards constituted in the locality itself, consisting of officials and non-officials. For this purpose, it is proposed to constitute District Boards, Taluk Boards and Village Panchayats. These Boards will have their respective duties and responsibilities and will have to administer the fund at their disposal. The Bill itself would be published in the Gazette, and I think that it would be better to refer to the principle of the Bill later on. I therefore beg to move for permission to introduce the Bill."

Seconded by Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar.

Carried.

THE PREVENTION OF JUVENILE SMOKING BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar, in introducing the Prevention of Juveniie Smoking Bill said:—

"At the eleventh and fourteenth sessions of the Assembly, it was brought to the notice of Government that smoking had become a vice in most of the juveniles attending educational institutions and that it was high time for the Government to take the necessary steps to prevent smoking. In England, we know that, as a matter of fact, there is the Children's Act applicable to juveniles under a certain age. The same law is in force in Ceylon, and I believe that in some of the Provinces in British India, they are introducing a law of this kind. In Mysore, a Regulation was passed in 1911 to prevent the juveniles from smoking or using tobacco in any form. We do not find any prohibition in the English Act about the use of tobacco in other forms for the reason that chewing tobacco is not prevalent there. Medical opinion seems to be that smoking among juveniles is productive of very serious diseases in after-life, such as, dyspepsia, severe disorders of the stomach, functional diseases, diseases of the heart and even blindness. These diseases develop in the young by the use of smoking or using tobacco in any form. Seeing that chewing is prevalent in this country the use of tobacco in any form is prohibited in the Bill.

The main provisions of the Bill are that no person shall sell to a person under the age of eighteen tobacco as defined in the Bill, and that, if any person under the age of eighteen uses it in any public street or public place, the Police have got the power to seize it. The Police officer may also arrest the person and, after ascertaining the name and address of the parent or guardian as also the school he is attending, if he is a pupil, he has to release him and report the fact to the parent or guardian or headmaster of the school as the case may be. If, after such release, the juvenile is found to repeat the practice, he is arrested and released on the undertaking of his parent or guardian or some other respectable person to produce the juvenile before the Magistrate. The Magistrate may discharge the offender with a warning or inflict on him a fine not exceeding one rupee or order him to receive a few stripes by way of school discipline. The object of these provisions is, as far as possible, to prevent the juveniles from smoking or using tobacco in any form. I therefore beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed."

Seconded by Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar.

Mr. Krishna Aiyangar:—

"Sir,

I welcome the proposal to legislate for the prevention of juvenile smoking. It is certainly not an indigenous habit of any long standing so far as Travancore is concerned. I remember that, forty years ago, it was an extremely rare sight to see young boys smoking. Now, we can see, in all the public places, students poisoning the atmosphere by smoking. The medical aspect of this question has been dealt with at length by the learned Mover, and a lay man like myself cannot add anything to the scientific opinion in the matter. It is certainly desirable that the habit of smoking among the juveniles should be discouraged. The Bill does not propose to put down juvenile smoking throughout the country, and for the matter of that it does not propose to put down the offence wherever it is committed. It is only when the

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